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Book and Job Printing

EXECUTED WITH NEATNESS AND DESPATCH.

POETRY.

From the Boston Morning Post.

DO LADIES OR GENTLEMEN EXERT MORE INFLUENCE IN SOCIETY?

The gentlemen we think may fill Their stations in their way; But as to influence, ladies will Excel far more than they.

And arguments to prove this side We can produce a few. The stronger sex most then abide 'By what they see is true.

When dull clouds o'ercast the mind And castes oppressive vex, Who has not felt compassion kind Spring from the gentler sex?

Or when the poor their woes reveal, To sickness or in grief, Like women who can deeply feel, Or give like her relief?

When in the heart no good remains And folly's race is run, A mother's influence oft reclains Her lost and wayward son.

Instruction given in early years Deep in the breast will lie; A faithful mother's prayers and tears And influence will not die.

Could Washington have o'er displayed Such noble strength of soul, Had not a mother's timely aid Cheek'd vice with stern control?

In childhood's down the richest seeds Did that kind mother sow, And carefully destroyed the weeds, That better things might grow.

The woman's highest power to gain Our every mortal foe, The young immortal mind to train For happiness or woe.

For usefulness and virtue now, For happiness above, And this man must and will allow Is woman's work of love.

Then does she not more influence lend? That which can never decay— For 'twill be felt when time shall end And she has passed away.

S. P. T.

From the Republican Journal.

COMMON SCHOOLS—NO. 3.

SCHOOL AGENTS.

Every town, at its annual meeting for the choice of town officers shall choose an agent for each school district in each town; or, at such meeting, the town may, by vote, authorize the several school districts to choose one or more agents for themselves, for the year ensuing. The latter mode is generally adopted, and is upon the whole preferable, as it transfers to those most immediately interested the selection of their own agent; the presentation being, upon the principle that men are not blind to their own interests, that the selection thus made will be more judicious than would be one made by those feeling no direct personal interest in the matter. The Statute further provides that any town may, instead of a superintending committee and school agents, elect their superintending committee of such number as they shall see proper, and may invest such committee with the rights, powers and obligations, pertaining to school agents as well as a superintending committee. It is to be regretted that so few towns avail themselves of a provision so well adapted to remedy the many existing evils, to which I shall hereafter allude. A committee thus selected would be further removed, than are district agents, from the influence of the petty amanities, partialities, and rivalities, which so often distract a school district, less liable to be influenced by personal favoritism in the employment of teachers, and more competent, as a general rule, to judge of their qualifications.

A cursory perusal of the sections creating the office of School Agent, and defining its duties, might lead to the conclusion, that almost every man in the district was possessed of the requisite qualifications—a more careful examination will lead to a different result. To the school agent is delegated the important power of employing teachers;—a power too frequently abused, or, to use the mildest expression, misused. The question may be asked, how can the power thus delegated be abused or misused, when the law provides, in positive terms, that no person shall be employed as a teacher, who does not produce the certificates required, and the Agent is under oath to observe the requirement of the law? The answer is twofold. In the first place, that the provision of the Statute and the enactment of the oath are too frequently, through ignorance, or inadvertence, or recklessness, disregarded; the records of our judicial courts furnish abundant testimony. It is true, that any person who shall teach a school without having first obtained the certificates required by law, subjects himself to a forfeiture, and is barred from recovering any compensation for his services. But, notwithstanding this highly penal enactment, the hazard is often run and success

MUTUAL CONSOLATION.—An old clergyman, who had an old tailor as his beadle or officer, for many years, retired from a walk where Thomas was in the constant habit of attending him, after a thoughtful and silent pause, thus addressed his fellow-traveller, the "minster's man": "Thomas, I cannot well tell how it is, that our church should be getting thinner and thinner;—for I am sure I preach as well as ever I did, and should have far more experience than when I first came among you."

"Indeed," replied Thomas, "old ministers, now-a-days, are just like old tailors—for I am sure I seem as well as ever I did, and the cloth is the same, but it's the rat, sir, the new cut!"

A Persian philosopher, being asked by what method he had acquired so much knowledge, answered: "By not being prevented by shame from asking questions when I was ignorant."

Jerrold says that old bachelors are like dry wood; when they do take flame, they burn prodigiously.

THE STORY TELLER.

From the Philadelphia Sunday Courier.

THE SON OF "THE HUNTER-SPY."

A LEGEND OF THE REVOLUTION.

BY GEORGE LIPARD.

On the green slope, which arose from the school-master's home, toward the woods, on the hill-top, stood the strange being whom we have known as the son of the Hunter-Spy, and the Pretended Quaker—Gilbert Gates.

Above him, arched the universe of stars—around him, slumbered the peaceful valley of Brandywine—within him, burned the tortures of a lost soul.

In his talon-like fingers he crushed a much-worn paper; it had been pinned to the dead man's breast some twenty years ago.

There were cold drops of sweat upon his brow; he trembled from his heart to his finger-ends.

"They are on our track, the dupes, the tools of my vengeance! Mine—mine—father and daughter, both mine! For him a death of horror—for her a life of shame! Hah! I hear their shouts—they pursue him to the death!"

As he spoke, a long column of light was flung over the green sward where he stood, as if from the bosom of the earth. A huge rock was rolled from the mouth of the mound, and the shouts and yellings of the ruffian band swelled on the air.

A figure sprang from the shelter of the mound—a weak and aged man—his attire covered with earth, and torn in fragments—his blue eyes, wandering in their glance, his grey hairs tossing to the impulse of the night-breeze.

As he sprang out upon the sod, he muttered the name of God:

"It is hard for an old man like me to be hunted to death like a mad dog! Let me see, which way shall I turn? I must take to the woods!"

"Nay, friend Mayland, nay," said a mild and conciliating voice: "Thee has never trusted in me, yet now will I save thy life. Not in the woods, for the bloodhounds are to near; in truth they are. But to the hay-stack! Behold this cavity, which I have made, to conceal thee, amid this pile of hay!"

"Gilbert Gates!" cried the old man, starting back. "I trust you not—there is Traitor written on your face!"

"Hark! Does thee hear the shouts of these pursuers? Death, death, to Mayland the Spy! Will they trust to them?"

"To the hay-stack he it, then!" cried the bewildered old man; "Bless me, what does this mean? A hole hallowed out in the centre of the stack!"

"I'll tell thee when thou art saved!" cried Gilbert, with his peculiar smile. "In friend Mayland, in! They will never suspect thee living place—I will conceal it with this loose hay!"

In a moment Jacob Mayland disappeared, while Gilbert Gates stood alone in the centre of the mound.

The hay-stack, round, compact and uniform in appearance, rose darkly, in the dim light of the sunset. Within its centre, cramped, confined, scarce able to breathe, crouched Jacob Mayland.

A shout from the mound, a flash of light, and some twenty forms leapt one by one, from the mouth of the passage.

"What is that dark thing in the fire?" exclaimed Mary Mayland—Quicke, Gilteb, the Tory leader—"which way went the spy?"

"To the Woods! to the woods!" cried Gilteb as his sharp features glowed in the light of twenty torches.

"Look, you smooth-speech!" cried the huge British Sergeant, stumbling forward—"I don't trust you. Your broad-brimmed hat don't hide your villainous face. By—, I believe you've helped this Spy to escape!"

A hoarse murmur arose from the bravoes, who with ominous looks, came grasping round the False Quaker.

"Now, friend Hemsdroll, do not get into a passion," said Gilbert, in his middest tones—"or if this does get into a passion, I beseech!—his face assumed an expression which in its mingled mirth and hatred, chilled even the drunken Sergeant to the heart—do not I beseech thee, *for the poor man's hay-stack!*"

"Ha, ha! Won't it though?" shouted the Sergeant. "The old fox has escaped, but we'll burn his nest!"

He seized a torch, and dashed it along the hay.

"Fire the hay-stack, my boys!" shouted the Tory leader. "Fire the hay-stack; every man of you! Burn the rebel out of house and home!"

As you look, twelve of the hand rash forward and encircle the hay-stack with a belt of fire—another moment—a sudden breeze from the forest the hay-stack glows from the sword of living flame.

The fire whizzed, and crackled, and hissed, winding around the cone of hay, and shooting in a long column, into the midnight sky. Abroad over the meadow, abroad over the forest crimsoning each leaf with blinding glow, high and higher, fierce and madder, it whirled and rose that column of flame.

Now the Tories, half in rage and half in drunken joy, mingled hand in hand and danced around the burning pile.

"Hark! for King George!" shouted the Sergeant, leaping from the ground. "Death to all Rebels!"

"So perish all rebels!" echoed the Tories.

And higher and higher rose the flame.

Up to the heavens, pale the stars, with its

burning red—over the green of the meadow—down upon the waters of the Brandywine—up the hill-side—along the woods, it rose, that mer-

ry flame!

As in the blaze of noon-day, lay the level fields stoned again—eye, from the shades of

sward, the grey stone house of the schoolmaster, the frame barn, with its fences and out-houses—while around the burning pile, merrier and gayer danced the soldiers, flinging their swords in the blinding light, and sending the name of the Good King George, to the skies!

Retired in the background, some few yards from the burning stack, his arms folded on his breast, his head turned to one side, stood Gilbert Gates, the Son of the Hunter-Spy. A smile on his pinched lips, cold gleam in his eyes.

"Fire the house!" shouted the Tory leader.

They turned to fire the house, but a low, moaning sound broke on the air—it caused the troopers, brutal as they were, to start with horror.

The leader of the Tories wheeled suddenly round, bending his head to catch the slightest whisper, the face of the Sergeant grew white as his sword belt.

That low, moaning sound swelled to a shriek—a shriek that curdled their blood. It came from the bosom of the burning hay-stack—along the breeze it yelled, and died away. Another shriek and another! Three sounds more horrible never broke on the ears of man. In a moment all was still as death—the hay-stack crashed down with a deafening sound. Nothing was left but a pile of smouldering embers. All was still as death, but a dim object moved amid the last remains of the burning hay—moved, struggled, and was still.

For the last time, the flame glared into the midnight sky.

Dismissed by that red glare stood Gilbert Gates perusing the crushed paper which he grasped in his talon-fingers.

"These are the words which he read by the glare of the hay-stack, words written in a cramped hand—perhaps in blood—and dated more than twenty years before this September day in 1777:

"Isaac Gates—a Traitor and Spy—Hung by three soldiers of his Majesty's Army." JACOB MAYLAND.

"He died alone in the wild woods—and I—his son, am his avenger!"

With these words, the son of the Hunter-Spy passed behind the barn, and was lost to sight.

And from the accused pile of death fled the soldiers, spurring their horses to their utmost speed—with the fear and horror of coward guilt they fled—while far over the plain, far over the valley, came the men of Brandywine, roused from their sleep by the burning hay-stack. Yes, from hill-top and valley, they came, as the last embers of the fire were yet glowing on the green sward.

And two figures emerged from the door of the school-master's house, the form of a stout and muscular man, and the form of a trembling maiden.

"Gilteb, it seems like a dream," said the maiden, "The flight of my father, the chase in the passage—the swoon! Thank God, my father has escaped! But what means this sudden stillness—this pale silence?"

They reached the burning embers on the hill-side and stood for a moment gazing upon the scene.

A mass of burning hay, a pile of ashes, the wrecks of some splintered boards were all that remained to tell of the location of the hay-stack.

"What is that dark thing in the fire?" exclaimed Mary Mayland—Quicke, Gilteb, the Tory leader—"which way went the spy?"

Gilteb held the light over the darkened mass.

Here, let me pause for a single moment.

You may charge me with painting horrors that never existed.

And yet there is not a hill or a valley in any one of the old Thirteen States unstained with the blood of peaceful men, shed by the breathings of King George.

Not only on the soil of Brandywine, but in a quiet home of Germantown, was a dead similar to the one in question, committed by American Tories and their British brethren.

An old man bared to death in cold blood by the soldiers of King George: it is horrible, but having occurred in the course of that beautiful game of War, which Kings and Tyrants have played for some four thousand years; let us write it down, eye, in its darkness, and bloodiest detail, so that the children of our day may know the features of Civil War.

War has been painted too long as a pretty boy, winged with buttons, fluttering with ribbons, waving with plumes.

Let me learn to look upon it as it is; a horrid bandit, reeking with the blood of the innocent, the knife of murder in his hand, the fire of carnage in his eye.

The war which Washington waged, was not war, in the proper sense of the term. It was only the *defence of one's hearthside against the robber and murderer*.

But of all the hideous murders which have been done, for two thousand years, the war waged by the British King, against the American People, was the foulest, the dastardliest, the basest.

It was a massacre of eight years, beginning at Bunker Hill, and ending its work of butchery only when it was crushed at Yorktown.

Let me mark this sympathy for Great Britain shake this truth from our souls. The English man, we do not hate; he is the countryman of Shakespeare and Milton, he is our brother.

But it will take a thousand years of good deeds to wash from the History of England, the horrid and merciless butcheries which she perpetrated in the Eight Years' War.

To forgive these crimes is our duty, but to forget them—

Can a child forget the wretch who butchered his mother?

Why, at the thought, the dead of our battle-

field, the dead again—eye, from the shades of

Mount Vernon, armed for the combat, starts the solemn ghost of Washington!

Let us follow this tragedy to the end, and at the same time, remember—it is only one among a thousand.

Gilteb held the light over the darkened mass. Yes, while the men of Brandywine formed a circle about the scene, grouping around the form of the farmer and the maiden, the light streamed over that hideous object among the embers.

Mary, the daughter, advanced, her face glowing mildly in the light, advanced and looked—

—There are some sights which it is blasphemous to paint, and this is one of them!

Some Angel of Mercy, at the sight, took from her, sense and consciousness. She fell: her white hands, outstretched, touched the mangled form of her father.

FROM MEXICO AND THE ARMY.

We give the following items from the New Orleans Picayune.

The Mexican Congress on the 22d ult. approved a proposition which declared the constitution of 1824 to be in full vigor. Another was adopted which forbids the deputies, in forming a new fundamental compact or constitution, from infringing upon the principles of the representative, republican, federal system. Also another, which restrains them at the same time from attacking the independence and sovereignty of the States, relative to their internal administration. All these resolutions indicate great fears on the part of the present dominant majority, least they should be speedily dispossessed of power, and they would fain tie up the hands of their successors by these formal declarations.

When the decree authorizing the confiscation of church property reached Queretaro, the Secretary of that state refused to take part in its promulgation, and resigned his office. His example was followed by his subordinates in office, and the decree was at last proclaimed without the usual formalities, signed by the governor alone. Bodies of the military patrolled the streets and protected the points where the decree was posted. A mob collected in front of the governor's palace, and insulted him by their outries. The military were again called out to disperse the rioters, and eight were shot in doing this.

The vice or deputy governor received his post, and the governor was constrained to make arrests of principal citizens to check an insurrection. This shows what hold the clergy have upon the sympathies of the people.

The revolutionary faction in Tabasco, we infer from a paragraph in the Locomotor, has been put down, or those engaged in it have voluntarily returned to their allegiance to the general government. This proceeding was hastened by the entrance of a division of the regular troops into Tabasco from Chiapas. Gov. Traconis was made prisoner by these troops and sent off to Chiapas.

► CAMARO, MEXICO, Feb. 5, 1847.—General Taylor, I am told, has in Monterey hostages from the little town where Lieut. Ritchie, with despatches, was taken; and further, that the general has given the authorities three weeks to produce the actors of this tragedy, or he will level their town to the ground. Let this system be kept up, and in a short time nothing of this kind will occur; any other course is fooling away our time. Capt. Ben. McCulluch is again in the field.

From the N. O. Picayune, Feb. 24.

THE CONDITION OF MEXICO.

We were yesterday placed in possession of our correspondence from Anton Lizardo and papers from Vera Cruz to the 1st of February. The following letter from one whose favors our readers have learned to value aright, presents in a succinct form the best picture of the internal condition of Mexico we have yet seen.

Though no later than our former accounts, the writer's intimate acquaintance with Mexican affairs, and his excellent judgment impart permanent interest to all his communications. The following will not be found an exception to this rule, and will amply repay perusal. It is satisfactory to us to learn from it our own inadequate attempts to show the disorganization, the distress and the impending convulsions of Mexico we have not exaggerated her woes:

Correspondence of the Picayune.

U. S. Squadron, off Anton Lizardo, February 2, 1847.

Gentlemen.—The news from the various parts of Mexico for the last fifteen days has been of much interests, as showing the probable subversion of the present Government of Mexico, the extreme distresses of the army, the total paralysis of Mexican credit and the entire inability of the General or the State Governments to raise money by any of the extraordinary expedients recently adopted. Last and not of least importance, are the auguries of Santa Ana's dictatorship.

The promulgation of the ordinance for the confiscation of the ecclesiastical property has in some places been resisted by actual outbreaks, and everywhere received with demonstrations of hostility which have created the greatest alarm. The Vice President appears to have displayed great energy and activity, not only in repressing the disorders in the capital, but in conferring extraordinary powers on the various military governors for the same purpose.

The clergy have closed the cathedrals, issued their solemn protests, and finally refused to deliver up the property of the church. The states of Mexico, Puebla and Queretaro have prayed that the law might be repealed. The church party press in various places openly counsels rebellion against Gómez Farías and the congress.

If anything was wanting to complete the failure of this measure, it has been found in the decided refusal of capitalistic to advance money on the scrip. It is now perfectly plain that the scheme will afford no immediate relief, and that the treasury will probably never realize a dollar from the ecclesiastical property for the purposes of the war.

So far as I am able to discover, all the other expedients which have been adopted by the general and state governments for raising smaller loans or contributions for the more pressing exigencies of the troops will have the same issue with the more magnificent project of plundering the church. The ingenuity of the Mexican legislators seems to have been taxed to the utmost; among other novel plans I noticed a forced lottery for raising money for the race.

The more moderate and hopeful journalists appear to have given up all hope that order can be preserved, and predict another revolution. The Vice President, Gómez Farías, is surrounded with difficulties which are insuperable, and is the object of attack by all parties—by the clergy, the monarchists, and a fragment of the centralists; and it needs no prophet to say that he must soon be driven from the helm.

Gómez Farías, the newly appointed Minister of Justice—successor of Nava, who was appointed only a week before—is not only one of the Cabinet, who actually discharges the duties of his office [Senor Gómez Farías has since resigned, according to a late Mexican paper before us.] Senor Zubia, the Minister of Finance has tendered his resignation and left his post in spite of the wishes of the Vice President.

Senor Ramírez, the Minister of Foreign relations, has thrown up his portfolio for a period of several months, and Canalizo, of the War Department, has also expressed his wish to retire. Various causes have been alleged for his abandonment of the administration by all the ministers, but the true solution of the defection is to be found in the extreme and unconquerable difficulties of their situation.

In the meantime there are reports from time to time from San Luis Potosí that Santa Ana is taking wary steps to proclaim himself dictator. These reports have within a few days assumed a more specific character.

A touching picture of the distress of the army

which the former received a severe thrashing.—No particulars are given. This news is from a doubtful source, and not worthy of much credit in our estimation, although it may be true.

BATTLE OF BRITO. The St. Louis papers of the 25th ult. contain the particulars of the Battle of Bracho, or El Paso, which took place on Christmas day, between Col. Doniphan's command (1100 in number, foursome cavalry and infantry.) Col. D. was on his way to join Gen. Wool at Chihuahua. The following account of this first battle of the Army of the West, is given in a letter from Lieut. Kribben, of the Mo. Light

Artillery.

Previous to the encounter, a Lieut. from the Mexican ranks, came up, waving a black flag, halting within 100 steps of our line. Our interpreter rode out to meet him. He demanded that our commander should come into their camp and speak to them. The reply was, "If your commander wants to see ours, let him come here." "We shall break your ranks and take him there," the Mexican retorted. "Come and take him," said our interpreter. "A curse on you, prepare for a charge," cried the Mexican.

"We give no quarters, and we ask none." He then galloped back. Their charge was made by the dragons upon our left flank, their infantry at the same time attacking our right.

After their fire was spent, our line poured a few volleys into them, which made such havoc that they wheeled to the left and retreated, attacking our provision train in their flight. Here they met a warm reception, and were soon compelled to fly in all directions. Taking advantage of the panic, Lieut. Wright charged upon them and took their cannon. Their enemy fled, leaving arms, baggage, provisions, &c. &c. on the field.

A small body of mounted men, under Capt. Read, charged upon the enemy and pursued them into the mountain.

The enemy had at least 30 killed. We lost not a single man, and had but 7 slightly wounded. We took 5 prisoners, 6 of whom died.

Col. Doniphan is said to have taken possession of El Paso on the 29th of December, without resistance.

Congress adjourned at three minutes before one o'clock on Thursday morning March 4th, not having, however, taken any decisive action upon business of general interest since 11 o'clock.

After a scene of great confusion, a motion to adjourn was, at the time above stated, agreed to when the speaker rose and said—

Gentlemen—By the vote which you have just taken you have determined that the twenty-ninth congress shall now close its labors, and the members composing it are to be separated—many of them forever. This separation is painful to some of us—I trust it is so to all; for we meet as friends—it can not be that we part as enemies—If, unhappy, any unkind feelings have been engendered, I trust that within these walls all those feelings may now be forever buried and forgotten. This congress has been one of unusual and momentous interest—passing upon questions of war and peace—questions upon which difference of opinion must necessarily exist, and questions upon which it's advantageous to republics that a difference of opinion should exist. It is true, in parties at least—that it is more to differ, but childish to quarrel. I have endeavored, gentlemen, to redeem the obligation—the pledge which I made when this congress commenced its labors, that I would impartially and to the best of my ability, discharge my official duties; that I would strive to be governed by the motto, "knowing no party but the people—no locality but the country." How far I have fulfilled that pledge must be left to you and to your constituents, to determine. I tender to you my sincere and heart felt thanks for the resolution which you have adopted approbatory of my impartiality; and, let me assure you, that I deem it not a heartless compliment; for the kindness, courtesy, forbearance and liberality with which you have always greeted me, teach me to believe that the sentiment which you have expressed is the true feeling of your hearts. To those gentlemen who have so kindly aided me in the discharge of the arduous duties of the chair, I am under particular obligations. And now, gentlemen, with the fervent hope that each of you may long live to enjoy the approbation of your country, I proceed to consummate my last official act by pronouncing this house adjourned without day.

This will be a bold movement, but it is characteristic of Urrea, who is a prompt and decided officer. It, however, has force consists only of cavalry, we do not apprehend any serious consequences from an attack on Matamoros. The

Sierra is fortified at every point by the battalions of Puebla, Guadalupe, Costa de Tampico,

the company of veterans, and three companies of cavalry. Gen. Urrea, with 1500 men first regiment of infantry of the line and a battalion of the National Guard of Jalisco, with three pieces of artillery, were marching in the direction of Monterrey, by the road of Matamoros.

These movements are no doubt made for the purpose of drawing off our forces from the contemplated attack on Vera Cruz. Santa Ana expects to cut off Gen. Taylor's communications, to block up both the roads to Camargo and to Tampico.

In the meantime, the Mexicans are pushing

forward toward Matamoros, from the road which

leads through Victoria. Urrea's cavalry are no doubt the advance of a large force intended for this point.

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This will be a bold movement, but it is characteristic of Urrea, who is a prompt and decided officer. It, however, has force consists only of cavalry, we do not apprehend any serious consequences from an attack on Matamoros. The

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New Hampshire Election.

The election in this State, for Governor, Members of Congress, Legislature and Councilors, took place last Tuesday. From the different accounts received we judge that the allied forces have received a perfect rout—horse, foot, and dragoons—by the democracy, who rallied to the rescue of their noble State from federal misrule with a nobleness and determination worthy of their former victories. We copy the following summary from the Boston Post of the 12th inst., which gives the latest intelligence we have received.

We have the vote for Governor in 175 towns, in which we make this result:—

Increase in the Democratic vote, 3600

Increase in vote for all others, 216

Democratic net gain, 1634

This gives the Hon. Jared W. Williams more than 500 majority, after deducting the 1172 Williams of last year against him. The returns to come in will undoubtedly increase his majority.

Democrats have been elected to Congress from the 1st and 4th districts. The 2d and 3d not heard from.

The Senate is composed of 12 members, and the democrats have probably elected 7, the others 5—no choice in 3 districts.

Representatives.—In 163 towns, according to our count, there are elected 117 democrats—all others, 167. In these towns there is a democratic net gain of 21. It is probable our friends will have an effective majority in the House.

Of the five Councillors our friends have most probably elected three.

THE WILMOT PROVISO AND NORTHERN DEMOCRATS.

The whig papers would have the people believe that because the Wilmot proviso failed, and northern democrats voted for the three million bill, without the proviso, therefore slavery has triumphed through the aid of democratic votes—or as they call it treachery. But this is utterly false, and the whigs very well know it; they only retain the slander to retain the abolitionists, and make their readers believe that northern democrats are favorable to slavery. The truth is the proviso originated in the House, and was defeated in the Senate. But the democrats were favorable to the three million bill as it passed the Senate, (though many of the north would have preferred the proviso with it,) and they voted in favor of the bill, believing it inconsistent to reject the one because they could not have both. They wished to put means into the hands of the President to secure peace on fair and honorable terms, whenever Mexico is disposed to yield to the right. The passage of the three million bill has nothing to do with the extension of slavery; for the question whether territory acquired, or to be acquired, shall be free or not, is yet to be decided.

We do not believe that the population of this territory will be favorable to slavery, or that slavery will ever extend to any great extent out of the present slave States—Many believed that the annexation of Texas would serve to extend and perpetuate slavery. But we always doubted it. A few days since an intelligent whig stated, in a private letter, that he did not think that Texas would finally be a slave state; he believed that the free population opposed to slavery, aided by foreign emigration, and emigration from the free States, would finally triumph, and that slavery would neither be allowed in the State of Texas, nor any new States growing out of it. We think there is some truth in this idea, and that it is worthy of consideration. But the whigs are determined to find fault. Their great aim is power, not the good of the people, so that should the Administration adopt even a wise measure, they would be almost sure to turn about and oppose it. They lament that so many of our brave men have left Mexico, and yet throw all their influence to aid the Mexicans in killing more. They cry peace, and yet do all they can to prevent it; and should the President succeed in bringing the Mexicans to terms, and peace ensue, they would doubtless call it a dishonorable peace, and say Mr. Polk backed out of the war in a cowardly manner, if they did not even advocate the continuance of the war. Such is whig consistency. They will be long—notwithstanding they now call Mr. Polk the Autocrat of the White House—quitting him, as they now do Jefferson and Jackson, in favor of whig politics and patriotism. Modern federal whigs are the "old Democrats," and "old Feds" are "modern Democrats." Well, Jefferson predicted that the Feds would one day steal the name of Democrats, and the fibbing and stealing propensity of the mud-in wings show that there is much truth in the prediction.

THE MASSACHUSETTS LICENSE LAW. The Supreme Court of the United States has decided by a unanimous voice, six Judges presenting the license laws of Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Hampshire are unconstitutional. The question, it will be recollect, has been pending a year or two, and the decision establishes the right of States to restrain the traffic in intemperance. The opinions explanatory of the grounds of these judgments were not pronounced, but it is understood that four judges had prepared opinions, each placing their concurrence on different grounds. The particular cannot be generally known until the reports of the term shall be published. It is understood that Judge Wm. Cushing considers the laws in question to be mere regulations of internal police of each State; that, being such, they are no more repugnant to the constitution than the restrictions on the trade in gunpowder, or the prohibitions of the sale of obscene books and pictures, lottery tickets &c., which may have originally been imposed from abroad or other states; that such restrictions are necessarily incident to State sovereignty, every State possessing the power to enact sumptuary and sanitary laws for the repression of luxury and the preservation of health among its citizens; and that whether any particular law for such purposes is consistent with expediency or good policy is not a question for the Supreme Court, but the State Legislature.

THE BOSTON DEMOCRAT says— Parties founded upon a sectional basis, or rising from sectional pride or interest, are most dangerous. Washington has warned us against them—our wisest and best statesmen have deprecated them—and the democracy have hitherto disconominated them, and acted and so known as the democratic party of the country. So should it ever be.

From South America. Lettered and papers from Montevideo to the 21 of January state that on the 26th of December General Rivera made himself master of Paysandu, capturing or killing the whole garrison of 600 men. He also took eleven guns, from four to twenty-four pounds. His loss was about one hundred men killed and wounded. Paysandu was taken once before by Rivera, three or four years ago.

Senator Webster, in a speech in the Senate on the 1st of March, charges the "Liberty party" with electing Mr. Polk, and bringing in Texas. The liberty party, as an effect, charge him and his friends with the Mexican war.

On the last day of the session of Congress, the nomination of Hon. Thomas H. Benton as Major General, was unanimously confirmed by the Senate. Mr. Calhoun being absent. It was supposed he would accept the appointment, and immediately leave Washington for Mexico; but rumor stated that he would not accept unless Generals Scott and Taylor were both recalled to the rescue of their noble State from federal misrule with a nobleness and determination worthy of their former victories. We copy the following summary from the Boston Post of the 12th inst., which gives the latest intelligence we have received.

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From the Philadelphia Saturday Courier.

THE SCIENCE OF GUN COTTON.

This preparation, which has attracted so much attention in the civilized world since its discovery, is prepared by immersing the raw material in strong nitric acid, and after it is completely saturated, washed in pure water, until every trace of acidity is removed, and then perfectly dried; it then possesses powerfully explosive properties far surpassing common gunpowder in its effects, and highly dangerous, since some preparations of it have been found to explode at a degree of heat not exceeding that of boiling water; therefore it cannot supersede gunpowder, since a gun, after a few discharges, would become heated to such a degree as to explode the cotton, and thus produce most disastrous consequences.

No satisfactory theory has as yet been found to explain this curious transformation of cotton into a highly dangerous preparation. Some have supposed that the nitric acid carbonized the cotton, and thus rendered its particles of carbon free to unite with the oxygen of the nitric acid, and have supposed that in this manner it resembles and actually constitutes gunpowder, and that the nitric acid added to the cotton gives off oxygen to oxidize the carbon of the cotton, in the same manner that saltpetre in gunpowder gives off its oxygen to oxidize its carbon and sulphur; but such a theory has a great many weighty objections.

1st, Nitric Acid in a free state cannot exist in the prepared cotton, since it has been ascertained that when this prepared cotton is immersed, and allowed to stand in water for many days, the cotton is but slightly injured. Now it is evident that if nitric acid did exist in a free state, it must have combined with the water, by reason of its intense affinity and thus the cotton would lose all of its explosive properties.

2d, No carbonization takes place, for the cotton if carbonized would appear black.

3d, Nitric Acid would not give off its oxygen until it was united with some base.

Therefore this Theory totally fails to give a satisfactory explanation of its operations.

I now propose to give a Theory of its formation which will fully and satisfactorily explain all its operations under any circumstances. It is well known to the agriculturist, as well as to the chemist, that nearly all vegetables require for their support certain salts or alkaline bases such as lime, potash, soda, &c., and that they absorb them into their structure by their roots, which may be proved by burning the plants, for the ashes which remain consist principally of the bases above mentioned. Now this is the same case with cotton; it extracts from the soil these bases, which are received into the structure of the plant, and assimilated; consequently, then, the fibres of the cotton contain in their structure potash, lime, or soda, and in a state of exceedingly minute division, finer than can be produced by any operation of art. Therefore, when cotton is immersed in the nitric acid, it unites with these bases, which may be present in the fibres of the cotton, potash, lime, or soda, to form nitrate of potash (saltpetre) or lime, or soda, and which remain in the cells of the fibres of the cotton. Nitrate of Lime, or soda, will make gunpowder full as well as nitrate of potash, (saltpetre,) only it will damage by age.

Carbon, sulphur, and saltpetre constitute common gunpowder. Now, instead of this, we have in the preparation of cotton, carbon, hydrogen, and saltpetre, in a much finer state of division than in common gunpowder; and therefore the only real difference between gun cotton and gunpowder is in the finer division of its particles. By this theory it is easily perceived how explosive preparations are made from other vegetables, as saw dust, &c.; the nitric acid uniting and saturating the alkalies present in the wood, in the same manner precisely as cotton. Consequently, to furnish a superior article of gun cotton, the cotton must be raised upon land containing plenty of these bases.

S. N.

* Our correspondent's opinion is probably predicated upon the amateur article made from the flaxen creeps of the Press, but it is claimed for the genuine Indian preparation, that it is as innocuous as the best of gunpowder. [Ed. Cour.]

Hebron Academy.

A new building erected by the Trustees of Hebron Academy, not likely to be ready for the first of March. The Superintending Committee has agreed to suspend the opening of the School till the first Wednesday in April, in view of the present permitting, the fall term will commence.

JOHN TRIPP, Secretary.

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Buckfield Academy.

THE SPRING TERM of this institution will commence, Monday, March 10th, and continue six weeks, under the direction of F. FOSTER, as Principal. Such additional teachers will be employed as the wants of the School may require.

TRIPOS.—Greek and Latin Languages, \$3.00. English Sciences, \$2.00.

Boards, including washing, room rent, wood and lights, may be obtained in good families, from \$2.00 to \$3.00 per week.

Per Order.

41

Plumbe National Daguerrian Gallery
—
Photographers Furnishing Depot.

AWARDED the Gold and Silver Medals, First, First Premiums, and Two Highest Honors, at the National, Massachusetts, and New York, and the Pennsylvania Exhibitions, respectively, for the most splendid Colored Daguerreotypes and best apparatus ever exhibited.

Portraits taken in exquisite style, without regard to weather.

A large assortment of Apparatus and Stock always on hand, at the lowest cash prices.

New York, 151 Broadway; Philadelphia, 155 Chestnut St.; Boston, 73 Cornhill, and 39 Hanover St.; Baltimore, 202, Baltimore St.; Washington, Pennsylvania Avenue; Petersburg, Va.; Mechanics' Hall, Cincinnati, Fourth and Walnut, and 175 Main St.; Saratoga Springs, Broadway; Paris, 127 Union Rue du Temple; Liverpool, 122 Church St.

July 7, 1846.

SCHOOL BOOKS.

GRAMMARS, Geographies, Antiquities, Histories, and all other books commonly used in Schools for sale by B. WALTON.

Paris Hill, Dec. 29, 1846.

340

BLANKS.

A prime assortment of Blanks, printed on good paper, kept continually for sale at the Daguerrian of Paris Hill, Dec. 29, 1846. B. WALTON.

340

C. W. WALTON,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
MEXICO, MAINE.

RECEIVED his Apparatus and Stock, and
is now ready to supply the same.

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